



SECRETARY OF STATE BRIAN P. KEMP

GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR CERTIFICATION OF WATER AND WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT OPERATORS AND LABORATORY ANALYSTS

Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators and Laboratory Analysts, 237 Coliseum Dr Macon, GA 31217
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Update from the Director

Randy Vaughn

The last quarter of the year is one of the busiest processing times for the staff at PLB. We have twelve different license types in renewal during the period along with a number of December graduates applying for various licenses. For existing license holders, our on-line renewal process allows us to process in excess of 92% of our renewals with very nominal staff involvement. It also provides our customers with a process that is fast, efficient, paperless and accurate.

For the new graduates, we now have 32 on-line applications available for those applying for their first license with us. This enables some new graduates to go on-line, register, apply for licensure and pay their fees. This paperless system allows the staff to process applications much quicker to the benefit of the applicant who can receive their license and go to work much

About the Board

The Georgia State Board of Examiners for the Certification of Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators and Laboratory Analysts was created by legislation enacted in 1969 for the purpose of protecting the public health, safety, and welfare by establishing minimum qualifications for persons who operate wastewater treatment plants, wastewater collection systems, water distribution systems, public water supply systems, or who conduct certain tests of water or wastewater samples in conjunction with the operation of public water system or wastewater treatment plants.

The Board certifies thirteen categories of license. Requirements for all categories include education, training, experience, and passage of a national examination.

The Georgia State Board of Examiners for Certification of Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators and Laboratory Analysts consists of six members: one technical staff member of the Environmental Protection Division of the Department of Natural Resources; one member who is a currently employed public water supply system operator holding a valid certificate of the highest classification issued by the board; one member who is a currently employed wastewater treatment plant operator holding a valid certificate of the highest classification issued by the board;

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faster than in the past. We are planning more on-line applications for the near future.

As we begin the year 2010, we will continue to offer more services on-line and strive to improve our processing times. For license holders, please keep your personal information up to date and accurate so our transactions with you can be faster and more accurate.

one member who is an employee of a municipality or county required to employ a certified operator and who holds the position of municipal or county manager, engineer, director of public works, or director of water supply and water pollution control; one consultant in the field of water supply and water pollution control or who is engaged in teaching or administering courses in water supply and water pollution control in an educational institution in this state; and one consumer member.

Typically, the Board meets six times each year. Board meetings are open to the public, with the exception of executive session, in which confidential matters such as complaints, disciplinary items, and applications are discussed.

2010 Meeting Dates

April 22, 2010 at 9:30 a.m.
 June 17, 2010 at 9:30 a.m.
 August 19, 2010 at 9:30 a.m.
 October 21, 2010 at 9:30 a.m.
 December 9, 2010 at 9:30 a.m.

The Board meets at the Professional Licensing Board Office in Macon.

Minutes from the Board meetings may be found on the Board's website at www.sos.ga.gov/plb/water

Board Members and Staff

Margaret Doss, Chair
 Stanley Tate, Vice-Chair
 William Defino
 Eric Osborne
 Tony Rojas
 Michael Whatley

Steve Lindsey
 Executive Director

Georgia State Board of Examiners for Certification of
 Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators
 and Laboratory Analysts

Active Licensees

Water Operator Class 1: 738
 Water Operator Class 2: 423
 Water Operator Class 3: 918
 Water Operator Class 4: 781
 Wastewater Operator Class 1: 855
 Wastewater Operator Class 2: 358
 Wastewater Operator Class 3: 1,484
 Wastewater Operator Class 4: 49
 Wastewater Industrial Operator: 302
 Wastewater Collect Sys Oper: 841
 Water Distribution Operator: 1,285
 Water Laboratory Analyst: 505
 Wastewater Laboratory Analyst: 569

Expiration Dates

*The following license types expire on June 30th of
 Odd Numbered Years:*

Wastewater Collection Systems
 Wastewater Industrial Operator
 Wastewater Laboratory Analyst
 Wastewater Operator Class 1
 Wastewater Operator Class 2
 Wastewater Operator Class 3
 Wastewater Operator Class 4
 Water Distribution Operator
 Water Laboratory
 Water Operator Class 1
 Water Operator Class 2

"It is illegal to work in the water/wastewater industry with an expired license."

Actions Taken by the Board

February: The Board voted to approve seven applicants for licensure.

The Board voted to re-post an amendment to Rule 750-3-.04, because of a change in the February 2010 meeting date. The rule amendment would allow for a reduction in the required experience for applicants with an Associate of Science degree in Biology, Chemistry, Engineering or other related field of study, approved by the Board.

License Renewal Process

How do I renew my license?

You may renew your license on the Professional Licensing Board website with a credit card. Click on the License Renewal icon and follow the instructions. You will be asked a series of questions including whether you have been arrested, convicted of a crime or received a board sanction since the last renewal, whether you have completed your continuing education requirements, and whether you are a U.S. citizen. Renewing your license via the website is the fastest way to renew your license.

The Professional Licensing Boards do not mail paper renewals unless requested. A paper renewal form may be requested by the licensee either by calling the Board office at 478-207-2440, or by submitting a written request.

Disciplinary Issues:

The Board addresses disciplinary issues on a case-by-case basis and takes these matters very seriously applying sanctions to those who violate the Georgia State Board of Examiners for Certification of Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators and Laboratory Analysts Practice Act, Board rules, and policies. It is important that licensees review all laws, rules and policies that affect their profession. These may be found on the Board's website at www.sos.ga.gov/plb/water.

All public disciplinary actions will be reflected in the Board minutes which may be found on the Georgia State Board of Examiners for Certification of Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators and Laboratory Analysts website.

Grounds for denial, suspension, revocation of a license, or other disciplinary actions may be found at O.C.G.A. § 43-51-47 or at O.C.G.A. § 43-1-19, which can be found on the Georgia State Board of Examiners for Certification of Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators and Laboratory Analysts website.

Complaint Process Information

The Georgia General Assembly created the Georgia State Board of Examiners for Certification of Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators and Laboratory Analysts to regulate the licensing and practice of water/wastewater treatment and distribution. The responsibility of administering the laws in O.C.G.A. § 43–51 is given to the Board, whose members are appointed by the Governor. The Board determines if applicants meet licensure requirements, promulgates rules, and considers complaints against licensees and allegations of unlicensed practice. The process for disposing of complaints is as follows:

Complaint Form:

Complaints must be reported to and received by the Board in writing. Written complaints may be submitted to the Board office or be submitted on-line at <http://sos.georgia.gov/myverification/submitcomplaint.aspx>. Documents received in connection with a complaint will not be returned. The complaint must contain sufficient factual evidence indicating a clear violation of Georgia law or Board rules.

Investigations:

The Board gives serious consideration to all complaints. Further investigative action may be taken. Should you file a complaint, you may be contacted by a Board inspector or investigator for additional information. Investigative files are considered confidential for any purpose other than a hearing before the Board. However, the Board is authorized to release such records to another enforcement agency or lawful licensing authority.

Notification Process:

While the investigation is ongoing, the Board is unable to discuss the status of a complaint with anyone, including the complainant. When the Board has completed the case, the complainant will be notified in writing of the Board's actions. All public disciplinary actions will be reflected in the Board minutes which are found on the Board website. Public disciplinary actions may be found on our website at: www.sos.ga.gov/plb/publicorders/

Frequently Asked Questions

The Board list of frequently asked questions is available on the Board's website. If you cannot find an answer to your question, you may contact the Board office at (478) 207–2440.